

PUBLIC NOTICE ON:

(I) THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (AGREEMENT) BETWEEN THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) AND NORTHERN ENGRAVING CORPORATION (NEC);

(II) THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION TO ISSUE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OPERATION PERMITS TO NEC's HOLMEN AND SPARTA FACILITIES; AND

(III) THE PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT A SOURCE SPECIFIC SIP REVISION TO THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. (EPA)

(I). Proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement

Pursuant to Section 299.80, Wis. Stats., the DNR is proposing to issue and enter into an Agreement with NEC under the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program (Program).

NEC, a manufacturer of nameplates and decoratives, is involving two of its facilities in the Agreement. The Sparta facility is located at 803 S Black River Street, Sparta, Monroe County, and its Holmen facility is located at 1023 Sand Lake Road, Holmen, La Crosse County, Wisconsin. NEC volunteered to help DNR pilot new approaches to environmental regulation through the Program. The Agreement contains the language that determines how DNR and NEC will carry out the goals of the Program. Public comments on the proposed Agreement are welcome. See Below.

(a). Variances to be granted

The Agreement would provide a variance to the "once in always in" policy for RACT at the Sparta facility. (See Fact Sheet) "Justification for Discontinuing the Use of Sparta incinerator".

The Agreement contains language that would allow NEC to construct, modify, and/or move equipment between facilities prior to obtaining a construction permit under certain conditions. The Agreement would also allow NEC to initially operate new equipment prior to obtaining a construction permit under limited scenarios provided ambient air quality standards are protected and NEC first receives written approval from the Department.

Both facilities would be granted variances to the LACT requirements under the agreement. VOC emissions from the Sparta and Holmen facilities may not exceed 85 tons per year averaged over 12 consecutive months. Both facilities would be restricted to 8 tons of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) for each HAP not to exceed 20 tons combined total (HAPs) per year.

The Agreement would provide a variance, which allows monthly record keeping and calculations in lieu of daily record keeping and calculations.

(b). Benefits of Agreement

The terms of the Agreement stands to test a well designed EMS and hopes to realize substantial savings of time and labor for both DNR and NEC while seeing to public safety and achieving environmental gains.

The terms of the agreement will hopefully provide economic stability for NEC and the community.

Under the terms of the Agreement and requirement of an ISO 14000 registration, NEC will conduct yearly audits of its EMS and provide performance evaluations to the DNR.

NEC will also make available to the public, information on its progress and regular meetings with a community established interested persons group.

(c). About the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program

The Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program (Program) was introduced by Governor Thompson and passed by the State Legislature as part of the 1997 – 1999 Biennial Budget. It is designed to evaluate innovative environmental regulatory methods including whole-facility regulation. It encourages the use of systematic assessments of environmental impacts from this facility, and is designed to focus on reducing pollution in an efficient and cost effective manner. The Program provides increased flexibility for pilot facilities that not only maintain existing levels of environmental protection, but also go beyond and provide superior environmental performance. Furthermore, the Program encourages substantial public participation by those affected by the activities at the facility.

(d). How DNR will make a final decision on the proposed action

In making a final decision on the proposed action, DNR will insure that the applicant has complied with all of the requirements in s. 299.80(6)(d), Wis. Stats. DNR will also review and consider all public comments received within the 30-day public comment period and at the public hearing. In consultation with the project manager and other staff, the DNR Secretary will decide whether or not to sign and implement the Environmental Cooperative Agreement.

The decision by the Department to enter into an agreement is not subject to review under ch. 227, Wis. Stats. The Agreement itself, once issued, is subject to review under ch. 227, Wis. Stats. To request a contested case hearing pursuant to s. 227.42, Wis. Stats., a person has 30 days after the agreement is issued to serve a petition for hearing upon the Secretary of the DNR. A request for contested case hearing should be made in accordance with s. NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review under ch. 227, Wis. Stats., and does not extend the time limits for filing a petition for judicial review.

(II). Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Preliminary Determination on an Air Pollution Control Permit to Operate an Existing Air Pollution Source at NEC Holmen, Lacrosse County, Wisconsin

Air Pollution Operation Permit No.: 632009730-F01

Revision of Air Pollution Control Permits: 91-POY-126, 88-IRS-049, MIA-10-KJC-83-42-053, EOP-10-KJC-83-32-081A, EOP-10-KJC-83-32-081 issued 8/9/1984 and altered 2/2/1990, 7/25/1988, 5/27/1987, 7/16/1986, 2/12/1985.

Northern Engraving Corporation submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) a permit application, including plans and specifications, for the operation of an existing printed/coated plastic sheet manufacturing facility. The La Crosse Area Office Air Program of the Department has analyzed these materials and has made a preliminary determination that operation of this air pollution source should meet applicable criteria for permit approval as stated in ss. 285.63 and 285.64, Wis. Stats., including both the emission limits and the ambient air standards and that the application is approvable. This preliminary determination does not constitute approval from the Air Management Program or any other DNR sections, which may also require a review of the project.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Preliminary Determination on an Air Pollution Control Permit to Operate an Existing Air Pollution Source at NEC Sparta, Monroe County, Wisconsin

Air Pollution Operation Permit No.: 642025010-F01

Revision of Air Pollution Control Permits: 97-JCH-130, 97-JCH-107, 95-MM-617, 93-IRS-040, 92-POY-157, 92-POY-068, 91-POY-136, 91-POY-088, 90-IRS-135, EOP-10-KJC-83-32-077A, 642025010-N01, 87-IRS-081, 87-MJT-033, 86-RV-049, and EOP-10-KJC-83-42-077

NEC submitted to the DNR, a permit application, including plans and specifications, for the operation of an existing decorated nameplate manufacturing facility. The La Crosse Area Office Air Program of the Department has analyzed these materials and has made a preliminary determination that operation of this air pollution source should meet applicable criteria for permit approval as stated in ss. 285.63 and 285.64, Wis. Stats., including both the emission limits and the ambient air standards and that the application is approvable. This preliminary determination does not constitute approval from the Air Management Program or any other DNR sections, which may also require a review of the project (See below for additional Information Locations.)

(III). Revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality

Pursuant to s. 299.80, Wis. Stats. the DNR is proposing to enter into an Environmental Cooperative Agreement with Northern Engraving Corporation for their Holmen facility. The proposed agreement would allow Northern Engraving Corporation to operate under alternative volatile organic compound emission limitations, use alternate record keeping methods, and construct new process lines prior to receiving a construction permit provided specific requirements are met. As part of this process, DNR intends to submit Attachment B of the Cooperative Agreement outlining these variances to the United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as a source-specific SIP revision.

(IV). Additional Information Locations

Complete information on the **proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement**, the Preliminary determination to issue Air Pollution Control Operation Permits (Agreement Appendix C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4) and analysis regarding, and the source-specific SIP revision can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/ecpp>. The above information will also be available for public inspection at the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Air Management Headquarters, Seventh Floor, 101 South Webster, Madison. Additional locations for viewing

documents include the Department of Natural Resources, La Crosse Area Office Air Program, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road, Room 104, La Crosse, the DNR Eau Claire Regional Office, 1300 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Sparta Free Library, PO Box 347, Court & Main Street, Sparta, Wisconsin, and the La Crosse County Library, 103 State Street, Holmen, Wisconsin.

To discuss issues related to the Air Pollution Control Operational Permits and SIP revisions you can contact Mary Carter (DNR Air Management Engineer) at (608) 789 - 5544.

To discuss the Environmental Cooperative Agreement please contact Mark Harings (DNR Environmental Cooperative Agreement Project Manager) at (715) 831-3263. **Contact for NEC:** Randy Nedrelo, 803 S Black River Street, Sparta, Wisconsin 54656, (608) 269 9547, rnedrelo@norcorp.com

Opportunity for Public Comment

The DNR hereby solicits written comments from the public regarding the proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement, the preliminary determinations to approve operation permits for Northern Engraving Corporation's Holmen and Sparta Facilities, and the proposal to submit a source-specific SIP revision to USEPA. These comments will be considered in the DNR's final decisions regarding this project.

If you want to submit written comments on the Proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement, please provide within 30 days to: DNR, 1300 W. Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54702, fax (715) 839 - 6076, or e-mail Mark.Harings@dnr.state.wi.us. Attn: Mark Harings.

If you want to submit written comment on the preliminary determination and/or the source-specific SIP revision, please provide within 30 days to: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, La Crosse Area Office Air Program, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road, Room 104, La Crosse, WI 54601. Attn: Mary Carter.

Note: The 30-day Public Comment Period starts from the day the Notice appears in the Wisconsin State Journal.

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN that DNR will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Cooperative Agreement, on the preliminary determination to approve an operation permit, and the proposal to submit a source-specific SIP revision to USEPA. The hearing will be held:

Date: Monday May 20, 2002

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location:

Monroe County Courthouse

112 South Court Street

Rm. Courthouse Annex in basement

Sparta, WI 54656-1756

Phone: (608) 269-8722

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Secretary:

/s/ Mark McDermid

4/15/02

Mark McDermid, Director
Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance

Date

/s/ Lloyd Eagan

4/15/02

Lloyd Eagan, Director
Bureau of Air Management

Date